



January 19, 2017

Dear 2015 and 2016 South Dakota Legislative Interns,

The South Dakota House of Representatives has appointed a Select Committee on Discipline and Expulsion to investigate Rep. Mathew Wollman and his conduct with legislative interns during the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions. The legislative code of conduct can be found in the Joint Rules of the South Dakota Legislature. The relevant sections read as follows:

**1B-1. Maintenance of ethical standards.** *The people of South Dakota require that their legislators maintain the highest of moral and ethical standards as such standards are essential to assure the trust, respect and confidence of our citizens. Legislators have a solemn responsibility to avoid improper behavior and refrain from conduct that is unbecoming to the Legislature or that is inconsistent with the Legislature's ability to maintain the respect and trust of the people it serves. While it is not possible to write rules to cover every circumstance, each legislator must do everything in his or her power to deal honorably with the public and with his or her colleagues and must promote an atmosphere in which ethical behavior is readily recognized as a priority and is practiced continually, without fail.*

**1B-3. Professional conduct and civility.** *The South Dakota Legislature will strengthen and sustain an atmosphere of professional conduct and civility among its members and with all staff and will not tolerate harassment or offensive behavior based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, or disability. Legislators must refrain from any and all such harassment or offensive conduct. This prohibition against harassment also encompasses sexual harassment including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a sexually harassing nature, when: (1) submission to the harassment is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or other employment determinations, or (2) the harassment has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.*

**1B-4. Action in event of violation.** *Failure to observe the highest standards of public conduct will subject a legislator to appropriate action, pursuant to the rules of the Chamber and Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure.*

Under House Rules Chapter 6, meetings of the Select Committee on Discipline and Expulsion must be held in public and streamed to the internet. Also, the select committee may require any testimony

given before it to take place under oath, and Rep. Wollman must be given *"the opportunity to confront and to question witnesses called by the committee."*

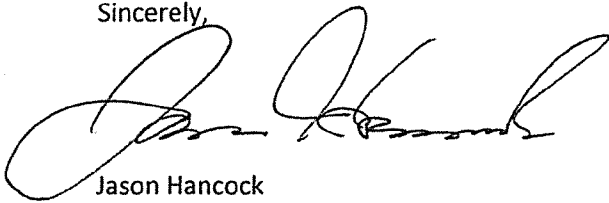
Rep. Wollman has admitted to consensual sexual contact with legislative interns during the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions. At a minimum, the select committee will determine if this represents *".....conduct that is unbecoming to the Legislature or that is inconsistent with the Legislature's ability to maintain the respect and trust of the people it serves"* under Joint Rule 1B-1, above, and recommend an appropriate sanction, if it does.

If you were a victim of any violation by Rep. Wollman of any of the Chapter 1B Joint Rules stated above, and wish to make a complaint, you will be afforded the opportunity to do so when the select committee meets on Tuesday, January 24, at 3:00pm in Room #414 of the State Capitol, under the terms I have described. Please contact me at (605) 773-3251 or [Jason.Hancock@sdlegislature.gov](mailto:Jason.Hancock@sdlegislature.gov) or Select Committee on Discipline and Expulsion Chairman, Rep. Timothy Johns, at (605) 645-7934 or [Timothy.Johns@sdlegislature.gov](mailto:Timothy.Johns@sdlegislature.gov) by no later than 12:00pm on Tuesday, January 24, to schedule your appearance as a witness, if you wish to testify.

I should also note that while the select committee welcomes testimony from any legislative intern who may have been a victim and wishes to make a complaint, they are also sensitive to the fact those involved may prefer to remain private. Therefore, it is not the intent of the Chairman to require any legislative intern to appear before the select committee against their will. It is further the intent of the Chairman to keep the names of any interns that may have had sexual contact with Rep. Wollman from appearing in any public forum or record, if they do not wish to testify.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Hancock', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jason Hancock  
Director, Legislative Research Council